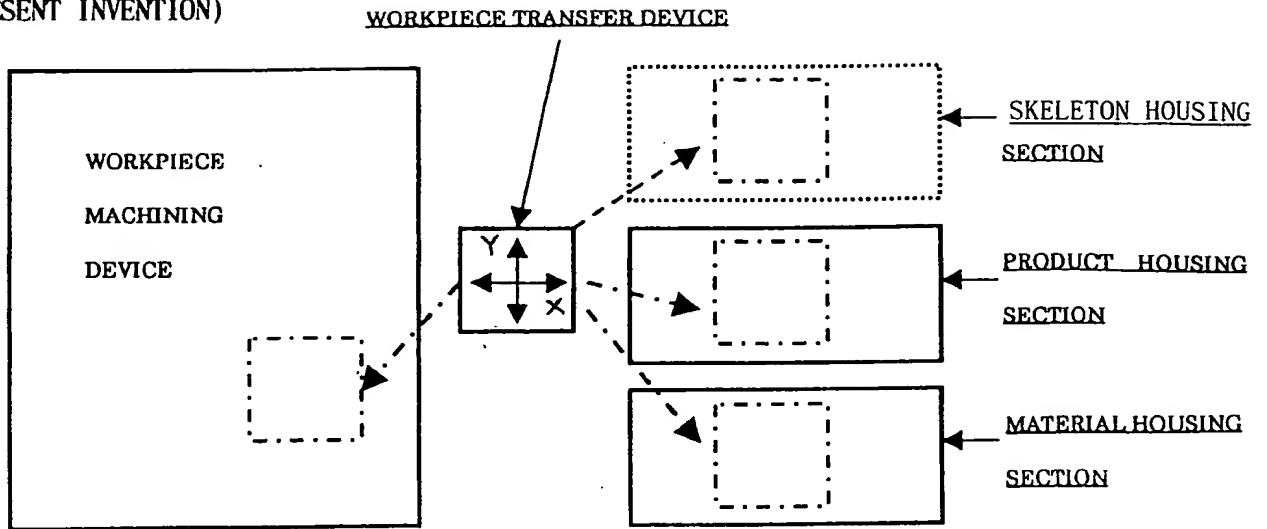


EXHIBIT A

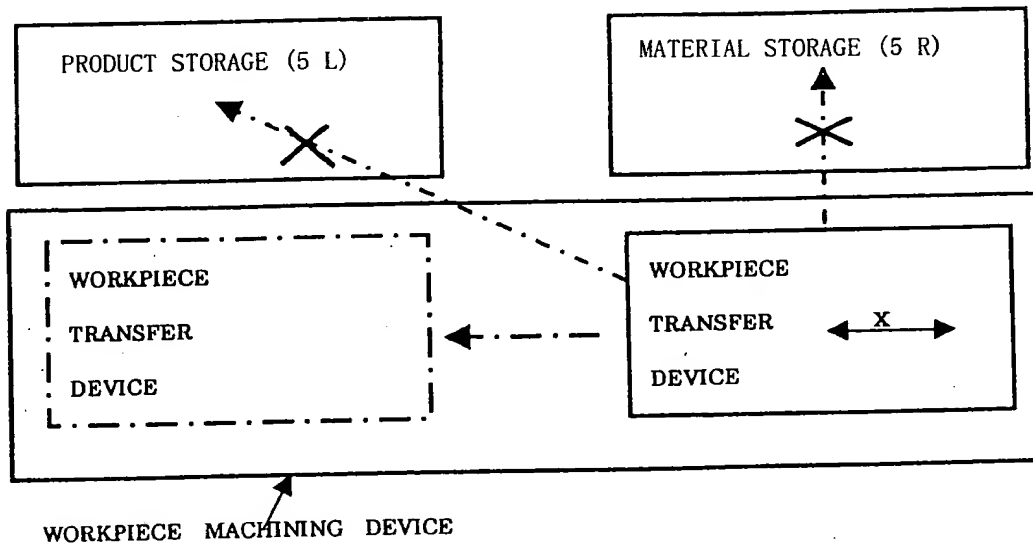
[ATTACHED SHEET]

(PRESENT INVENTION)



The WORKPIECE TRANSFER DEVICE moves in an X and Y direction.
The WORKPIECE TRANSFER DEVICE carries the WORKPIECE between the WORKPIECE STORAGE DEVICE and the WORKPIECE MACHINING DEVICE.

(KAWADA)



The WORKPIECE TRANSFER DEVICE of KAWADA moves in the X direction (corresponding to the Y direction of the present invention), however, it does not move in the Y direction (corresponding to the X direction of the present invention), and is not positioned above the MATERIAL STORAGE (5r) and the PRODUCT STORAGE (5L).

The Y direction transfer of the WORKPIECE in the MATERIAL STORAGE (5R) or the PRODUCT STORAGE (5L) and the WORKPIECE MACHINING DEVICE is done by the TRAVERSER 99 (not shown in the above drawings).

The WORKPIECE TRANSFER DEVICE of KAWADA only transfers the WORKPIECE in a vertical direction or an X direction between the TRAVERSER 99 and the TABLE 13 of the WORKPIECE MACHINING DEVICE.